

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An electric plug connector, in particular for explosion-proof areas, comprising:

a plug,

a socket including at least a housing and a socket insert supported in said housing such that the socket insert is rotatable between first and second positions, said socket insert being adapted to be rotated between its positions by means of the plug inserted in the socket, and

a locking element supported in the socket insert such that the locking element is displaceable between a locking position and a release position, said locking element being provided with at least one coding projection which, in the condition in which the plug is inserted in the socket insert, is adapted to be arranged in a complementary coding aperture in the plug thus arranging the locking element at its release position, wherein the socket insert is rotatable between the first and second positions when the locking element is in the release position.

2. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 1 wherein the locking element is implemented as a locking pin which is supported in the socket insert such that it is longitudinally displaceable between the locking and release positions essentially in the plug-in direction of the plug.

3. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 2 wherein, when occupying the release position, the locking pin projects with one of its ends as a coding projection beyond the socket insert in the direction of the plug.

4. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 2 wherein the locking pin has a force applied thereto in the direction of the release position.

5. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 2 wherein the locking pin is arranged essentially centrally in the socket insert.

6. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 1 wherein the coding projection is implemented such that its cross-section is complementary to the cross-section of the coding aperture.

7. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 2 wherein the socket insert is provided with a longitudinal guide means for the locking pin, the cross-section of said longitudinal guide means being substantially equal to the cross-section of the coding projection.

8. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 7 wherein reception holes for electric contact pin bushings are arranged around said longitudinal guide means in the socket insert.

9. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 7 wherein the locking pin projects beyond said longitudinal guide means with its lower end located opposite the plug and is provided with a stop which is adapted to be brought into contact with a lower end of the longitudinal guide means.

10. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 9 wherein the stop is implemented as an upper end of an end sleeve of the locking pin which is open at the bottom, said end sleeve being adapted to accommodate at least part of a spring for applying a force to the locking pin in the direction of the locking-pin release position.

11. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 10 wherein a centering pin is arranged centrally in the end sleeve, at least part of the spring being adapted to be pushed onto said centering pin.

12. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 8 wherein the socket insert is supported in an annular element at least in the lower end section thereof, the socket insert being adapted to be inserted together with said annular element in a plug housing which is releasably secured to the housing.

13. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 12 wherein the annular element, the socket insert and the plug housing are flush with one another at their respective lower ends facing the housing and project partially into a housing aperture in said housing.

14. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 13 wherein the plug housing is provided with a circumferentially extending edge flange which is releasably secured to an edge of said housing aperture.

15. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 13 wherein the plug housing is adapted to be connected to a diskshaped switching means within the housing, said switching means supporting the contact pin bushings and comprising at least one fastening disk and one switching disk which are rotatable relative to one another and disposable at two locking positions.

16. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 15 wherein the fastening disk is provided with a locking aperture on its front face facing the socket insert, the lower end of the locking pin being insertable into said locking aperture, whereby the socket

insert and the fastening disk are coupled such that they are secured against rotation relative to one another.

17. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 15 wherein the annular element is provided with a dog projecting towards the switching means, said dog extending through a slot guide means in the fastening disk and engaging a dog reception means arranged on the switching disk.

18. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 15 wherein the annular element has a substantially L-shaped guide slot for an arresting insert which is supported on the outer circumference of the socket insert in a longitudinally displaceable manner, said arresting insert being adapted to be moved along the vertical L-leg by a plug collar of the plug, when the plug is being inserted in the socket insert, and subsequently along the horizontal L-leg by rotating the socket insert relative to the annular element.

19. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 18 wherein the arresting insert is provided with an arresting projection which projects radially outwards relative to the socket insert and which is adapted to be brought into contact with edges of the guide slot.

20. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 18 wherein the arresting insert is supported in at least one support pocket such that it is displaceable in the longitudinal direction of the socket insert, said support pocket being arranged on the lower end section of the socket insert.

21. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 20 wherein a spring for applying a force to the arresting insert in the direction of the plug is arranged between said arresting insert and the base of the support pocket.

22. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 20 wherein support pockets are arranged along the circumference of the socket insert, said support pockets being especially arranged in juxtaposition.

23. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 1 wherein the coding projection has a semicircular, divided circular, circular, bident, trident or multident or an angular cross-section.

24. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 15 wherein the fastening disk is provided with a guide wall projecting in the direction of the socket insert and engaging an annular groove in the lower end of the socket insert so as to rotatably support the same.

25. (Previously Presented) An electric plug connector according to claim 17 wherein the switching-disk back which is located opposite the fastening disk has provided thereon at least one trip cam, which, in response to a rotational displacement of the switching disk by means of the dog, adjusts a switching means of an interrupter switch to a connection position or to an interrupt position, said interrupter switch being arranged in the housing.